

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1-9 are amended, and claim 10 is added. Claims 1-9 are amended to replace "characterized in that" with "wherein" for better form. Claim 1 is amended to correct informalities listed in item 2 of this office action. Claims 7 and 9 are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. These amendments to claims 1-9 are not done to further distinguish over the prior art.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 2 and 3 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are allowable.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Debler et al. The inventors of Debler et al. are exactly the same as the inventors of the present invention. Attached is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 setting forth that the disclosure of Debler et al. is applicants' own work. Therefore, because the reference was derived from the inventors of the present application, the reference is not the invention "by another" under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the attached Declaration overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Debler et al. Therefore, claim 4 is allowable.

Claims 1 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yanagibashi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Yanagibashi et al.

does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1. In particular, Yanagibashi et al. does not disclose or suggest a connection extension that projects so far out of the housing of the air bag module that the connection extension can penetrate into the source of compressed gas installed outside of the housing and the connection extension serves to supply the gas lance with compressed gas from the source of compressed gas as well as to mechanically attach the source of compressed gas to the airbag module.

In Yanagibashi et al., a hose connecting pipe 39 is clamped and fixed at the exit opening 38 of the inflator case 32. A supply hose 44 is fitted on the hose connecting pipe 39. However, a supply hose 44, due to its inherent elasticity, cannot be used to mechanically attach the inflator unit 26 to the airbag module. In fact, Yanagibashi et al. teaches that the inflator case 32 for the inflator unit 26 is fixed to the main frame 12 by two stays 42 welded to the main frame 12 (See Col. 4, lines 8-12 and Fig. 4). Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 5-9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

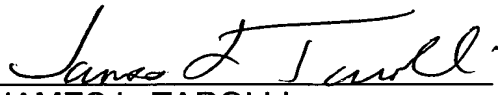
New claim 10, which depends from claim 1, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1 and also for the additional feature that only the connection extension mechanically attaches the source of compressed gas to the airbag module. None of the prior art discloses or suggests this feature. Therefore, claim 10 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed.

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Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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